

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the *Chief Financial Officer's Annual Report: FY 2001* for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This report, prepared under the auspices of our Financial Management Office, pursuant to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Government Management Reform Act of 1994, and related statutes, details our financial statements and provides an overview of the myriad services we provide the American people in support of the objectives, policies, and programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

I am proud that for fiscal year 2001 CDC and ATSDR have received—for the fourth consecutive year—an unqualified or “clean” opinion on our financial statements. This documented record of providing effective financial stewardship for the public funds entrusted to us underscores our deep commitment to protect the health and safety of Americans, provide credible information, and promote health through vital partnerships.

CDC and ATSDR together strive to reduce the death, illness, and disability in the United States and throughout the world. Safeguarding the health and safety of our nation has always been a complex, unending task, and we at CDC will continue striving to serve the American public in the professional, competent manner that has characterized CDC and our work for the past 55 years. As we all now know, however, the horrific atrocities that occurred in America on September 11, 2001, and the subsequent bioterrorism attacks have changed forever how we live our lives and how we view our world.

During FY 2001, we continued to make crucial capital improvements in fulfilling our plan for modernizing our laboratories and support facilities on two secure CDC-owned campuses. Through such improvements, CDC and ATSDR will be better able to continue



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saving lives and dollars through our public health activities and initiatives and to recoup our nation's investment at home and abroad.

The Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 requires an assertion on the information contained in this report. Based on my understanding of the work performed by our independent auditors, internal agency reviews, and CDC management controls, I believe the information contained in this report is reasonably complete and reliable. In addition, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's FY 2003 Performance Plan, FY 2002 Final Performance Plan, and FY 2001 Performance Report* will provide information about how CDC's programs will verify and validate performance data, including the completeness and reliability of those data.

I welcome your interest in CDC and ATSDR, and I invite you to read this report for more information about our organizational structure, finances, programs, and accomplishments for FY 2001.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Koplan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" being the most prominent part.

Jeffrey P. Koplan, MD, MPH  
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and  
Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry